



state senator

John Waterman

2005 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

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John Waterman

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Enjoy Indiana!

Sen. Waterman Encourages Hoosiers to Travel in State

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage Hoosiers to travel within our state. By capitalizing on our tourism potential, we can enjoy Indiana and help our economy a great deal.

This past session, the General Assembly passed Senate Enrolled Act 335, which creates the Indiana Office of Tourism Development. This will enable us to focus on attracting out-of-state travelers while encouraging Hoosiers to explore Indiana during their summer vacations.

return of \$34 for every \$1 spent on advertising.

By promoting travel in Indiana through partnerships with businesses, attractions and local governments, we will continue to improve our economy.

There are many exciting and fun attractions around the state. From shopping and sporting events in Indianapolis, to hiking and camping in Brown County, to the Indiana Dunes in Chesterton — and so much more — our state is full of fun vacation destinations for people of all ages and interests.



*Pictured at left:
A lighthouse located in Michigan City, Indiana.*

(Photo courtesy of the Indiana Office of Tourism Development)

Instead of fighting the crowds in Florida or driving for hours on end, plan a vacation — or two — right here in Indiana.

For travel information, you can visit www.EnjoyIndiana.com or call 1-888-ENJOY-IN.

FACTS & FIGURES

FROM THE 2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The First Regular Session of the 114th General Assembly began on Organization Day, November 16, 2004, and adjourned April 29, 2005.

This budget year was known as the “long” session.

Senate bills introduced: 647
Senate joint resolutions introduced: 10

Senate bills passed: 163
Senate joint resolutions passed: 1

House bills introduced: 859
House joint resolutions introduced: 18

House bills passed: 85
House joint resolutions passed: 1

Percent of introduced bills that were sent to the governor: 17%

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Visit my web site at www.in.gov/S39 where you can read my latest news releases, track bills, and learn more about Indiana laws.

During the legislative session, you can click on our [live video](#) link to watch a session day in real time.

For other information about the Indiana General Assembly, visit www.in.gov/legislative

Waterman Builds Business Relationship with



Photo: Sen. Waterman and Governor Daniels meet with Taiwanese business leaders.

One of the many things I did this past session was continue my work to build a better relationship with the Taiwanese.

I have worked with Taiwanese officials since 1999, improving commercial relations between our two economies. This year marks the 25th anniversary of Indiana's sister state relationship with Taiwan in world trade and commerce.

Indiana was the first state to enter into such a relationship with Taiwan.

I believe this has been a very good year for this relationship. The Taiwanese government wants to invest in American agriculture, and Indiana has plenty of agribusiness for them to choose from.

I was happy to host Taiwanese officials at the Statehouse. During their visit, we met with members of the executive branch of state government to discuss commerce and agriculture in light of the special relationship Indiana and Taiwan share.

Members of the Taiwanese delegation met with Governor Mitch Daniels in the morning and had lunch with Secretary of Commerce Pat Miller and Secretary of Agriculture Andy Miller to discuss the commercial and professional relationship between our governments. I also introduced our guests on the floor of the Senate.

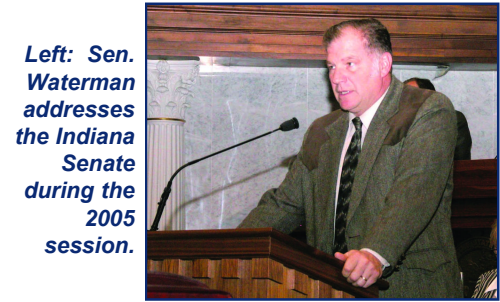
We are on the road to a fantastic working relationship with Taiwan in the very near future. I am honored to be able to be a part of reestablishing our nations' sisterhood to benefit both Indiana and Taiwan.

IN THIS ISSUE:

defending marriage

creating a new department of agriculture

utilizing biofuels



Left: Sen. Waterman addresses the Indiana Senate during the 2005 session.

Fighting to Save Our License Branches

As you may have already heard, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles is closing license branches all over the state.

They originally announced that 12 license branches, including our branch in Bloomfield, would be closed. I objected to this plan and fought to keep this branch open. Thanks to the help of constituents, Rep. Bruce Borders (R-Jasonville), and others, we were able to work together to convince the BMV to keep this branch open.

However, after that victory, the BMV announced a list of 24 more possible closures. Two license branches in our district are on this list, Odon and Clay City.

I understand that they are trying to do what they think is best to save the state money and manage their department better; however, I am not pleased with the decision to go around the state closing all of these rural community license branches.

This would provide very minimal savings for the state, and would be a burden on many Hoosiers. Citizens would be forced to take the extra time, spend extra gas money, possi-

bly leave their work or business, and many other inconveniences that offset whatever small savings the state might be able to make.

I, again, plan to do everything I can to save these license branches. I plan to speak with Governor Daniels, Commissioner Silverman, and anyone else at the state level who will listen.

I also plan to work with local officials and would like help from you. You may contact the BMV and the governor's office and let them know how you feel about this plan. The governor can be reached by writing to the Office of the Governor, 200 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204. To contact the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, citizens can call 317-233-6000 or go to www.in.gov/bmv/contact.



The final decision on closing this branch hasn't been made yet, so let your voice be heard. Together we can fight to save our branches in Odon and Clay City.

Economic Plans to Help Indiana

Waterman also encourages Hoosiers to support local businesses



Photo courtesy: Indiana Office of TourismDevelopment

This past session, lawmakers passed various initiatives to revive Indiana's economy. These initiatives came in the form of Senate Enrolled Acts 1 and 496.

These two laws contain dozens of provisions that make the state more attractive to companies looking to relocate, existing businesses wishing to expand and entrepreneurs looking for an incentive to start a business.

I also would like to encourage citizens to support Indiana companies and the local business in their communities. By supporting local business, we can keep that money in our communities and create jobs there rather than sending it away when we buy from big out-of-state corporations.

The General Assembly was very aggressive on passing legislation that will create jobs in Indiana. Together, we can revive Indiana's economy.

2005 Brings Good News to the Ag Industry Legislature Creates Agriculture Dept.

Sen. Waterman Co-Authors Landmark Legislation

Agriculture is one of the largest and most important industries in Indiana. As one of the nation's leaders in a vast array of agricultural areas, it would probably come as a surprise to most Hoosiers that, prior to this legislative session, our state had no official Department of Agriculture.

Indiana was one of only four states that operated without an official Department of Agriculture. The other three – Alaska, Arkansas, and Rhode Island – come as little surprise, but our state ranks second in the nation in the amount of prime farmland, and a one-stop entity that would handle all of our agriculture issues would greatly benefit this industry.

House Enrolled Act 1008, which I co-sponsored, created the official Indiana Department of Agriculture and consolidates duties that were once scattered across numerous agencies.

The move costs Indiana taxpayers no

additional money. In fact, I hope it actually saves money by merging the 10 separate agriculture boards and commissions into one large department.

The bill also changes who serves as the chief advocate for the agriculture community. Previously, the lieutenant governor automatically served as the state's top agriculture official. While most lieutenant governors, including current Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman, have performed admirably in that position, some have not had the expertise needed to carry out such important responsibilities. The passage of this bill allows the



Sen. Waterman visits with Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman.

DID YOU KNOW?

indiana is one of the nation's top agriculture states, ranking #1 in ducks; #2 in popcorn, ice cream and tomatoes; #4 in soybeans; #5 in corn and hogs, and the list goes on.

BIOFUELS: Good for the Environment and the Economy

Two significant clean energy initiatives have become law.

House Enrolled Act 1032 requires state government to fuel state vehicles with agriculture-based fuels, such as biodiesel, ethanol, or gasohol, whenever possible. Biodiesel is a clean burning alternative fuel, produced from domestic, renewable resources such as soybeans. Biodiesel contains no petroleum, but it can be blended at any level with petroleum diesel. This helps improve air quality and our economy by taking advantage of resources from right here in Indiana.

Senate Enrolled Act 378 will expand the tax incentives passed during the 2003 legislative session on the production and use of Indiana soy diesel and ethanol fuels and provide additional incentives for clean coal gasi-

fication plants. This bill covers all facets of processing — from soybean crushers to oil refineries to the service stations that will supply the fuel — while growing the demand for agricultural commodities and increasing farmers' profits. Ethanol production plants cost around \$79 million to build and don't receive these tax breaks until they are making a profit in our state.

SEA 378 provides an additional \$5 million for bio-diesel production, which will be divided into \$1 million sections for the refineries, wholesale, blenders, and service stations that carry the fuel. The bill also expands the tax credit from \$10 million to \$20 million for large ethanol and soy diesel production plants. This will provide a great opportunity for both soy diesel and ethanol plants.

Additionally, SEA 378 provides tax credits for companies who build and operate integrated coal gasification power plants in Indiana. Coal gasification is the process of using Indiana's high sulfur-coal and transforming it into clean-burning energy.

Our state's use of coal has not kept up with our production. Since 1987, coal consumption in Indiana has increased by 30 percent, while Indiana's coal production has increased by only 3 percent. Over half of the coal used to generate electricity is imported into Indiana. If Indiana coal were to replace imported coal, it would add \$1.35 billion and 18,000 jobs to our state's economy.

With rising gas prices and pollution, this source of energy has great potential. The fuel is cheaper and better for our environment. The economic possibilities are fantastic.

SEA 76 — This law requires a health care provider to provide a pregnant woman with information regarding the availability of ultrasound imaging and auscultation of heart tones of a fetus before performing an abortion. **PASSED. My vote: YES**

SEA 12 — The "Code Adam" program sets a protocol for lost or missing children in certain state buildings. This initiative, on a smaller scale, is similar to the popular and successful "Amber Alert" program. **PASSED. My vote: YES**

SEA 444 — This bill limits sets restrictions on purchasing certain cold medicines that contain ingredients for making methamphetamine. This will make it more difficult for criminals to make the deadly drug and will help in our fight against meth. **PASSED. My vote: YES**

SEA 223 — This bill allows a person to have his or her blood type printed on a license, permit, or identification card. This could help in emergency situations, as health care providers would be able to determine a person's blood type without having to run tests. **PASSED. My vote: YES**

HJR 4 — This joint resolution amends the Constitution to guarantee the right to hunt, fish, and harvest game. This passed the legislature, but must pass again in the 2007 or 2008 session and then must be passed by the citizens on the 2008 general election ballot. **PASSED. My vote: YES**

SEA 304 — This bill recognizes the sacrifice made by National Guard members. It provides an exemption for spouses and children of National Guard members killed in state active duty from paying tuition at any state educational institution. **PASSED. My vote: YES**